

Department of Global Studies

2006 + 2004 Social Sciences & Media Studies (SSMS) Building

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Advising available throughout Mon-Fri (appointments as well as drop in advising); please [click here for advising options](#).

Frequently asked questions about the major: Check out our [advising YouTube channel](#)!

Whether you are considering applying to UCSB and majoring in Global Studies or you have been accepted already as a new freshman or as a transfer student, welcome! Here are some things to consider as you prepare for your next steps.

Frequently asked questions:

1. **What are the major requirements and how do I get started deciding what courses to take in my first quarter?**
 - **What's a Pre-Global Studies major?** All students that indicate interest in the major on their UCSB application are admitted as pre-majors; you then complete pre-major requirements throughout your first several quarters before applying to the full major ([more info here](#).)
 - [Click here to access the current major requirements](#), which include two pre-major requirement sections you must complete before moving into the "full" rest of the major
 - Note for transfer students: you do not "have to" complete all pre-major and prep for the major requirements before you transfer, but the more you finish, the much better off you will be in terms of being able to graduate on time (and do other fun things, like studying abroad, doing a second major/minor if desired, etc.)
 - [This page](#) has a **suggested plan of study** for each of your years at UCSB in Global Studies as well as a **course planning tool** that new and continuing students can use to fill in and check off major and graduation requirements as they go
 - New **transfer students** - Attend transfer orientation in August for more details, but your big focus is: completing pre-major requirements as quickly as possible (if needed) and continuing as

far forward as possible (or getting started and coming up with a catch-up plan) on foreign language courses as needed

- New **freshmen** - Orientation will be a lot more generalized for you, and you don't need to stress a lot about your major in your first quarter(s) at UCSB. Focus on GE courses and work on pre-major and prep for the major courses (including strategizing how you'll complete the foreign language requirement, since starting early on that gives you more room in your schedule later for things like study abroad, a second major or minor, a job/internship, or potentially graduating early!) You are considered on-time if you finish the pre-major within your first 2 years at UCSB, so don't stress too much about getting all pre-major courses done immediately - just work through them over your first 4-6 quarters.

2) What do I need to know about the foreign language requirement for Global Studies?

It's pretty extensive! We want our students to have the strong knowledge of other cultures that comes from in-depth study of at least one other language. [See here for a full rundown \(with visuals!\) on our website](#); a few key points included below.

- The full requirement is 3 years, done either through all one language (beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels) OR two years (beginning and intermediate levels) of one language PLUS one year (beginning level) of a different language.
- There's a video on our [advising YouTube channel](#) explaining many of the ways that students can complete this requirement (courses at UCSB, high school language credit for part of the requirement with some specifics, courses at a community college or other accredited institution, certain courses on a study abroad program, placement tests for a language you've learned before or in which you are a fluent/native speaker, etc.)
- **Prospective students and junior transfers:** One of the best things you can do for yourself in your time before arriving at UCSB is to make sure you've taken a strong amount of foreign language so that you can finish the major on time, have room in your schedule for other opportunities, study abroad, etc!
 - If you're still in high school? Take at least 3 years of 1 foreign language and maintain Cs and above in all three years. You can choose to build on this language and/or start fresh with a brand new language when you arrive at UCSB! AP language course exam credit helps A LOT for clearing you for language credits, so if you are on the fence about taking the exam, do it!
 - If you're in community college or another college? Take 2-4 semesters (or 3-6 quarters at a quarter system school - that's 1-2 years) of one language so that you don't have to start fresh on the full 3-year requirement when you arrive at UCSB (and so you can theoretically be done at UCSB in 2 years!)

3) As a prospective transfer student (now or in a future year), what kinds of courses should I be taking to prepare for Global Studies at UCSB, and how do I know what classes will and won't transfer as credit towards the major?

- Having a strong foreign language background is one of the best things you can do to be prepared to start in the major as a transfer student. Two beginning-level semesters help, and completing all 4 (beginning and intermediate) semesters in one language is even better. Without this preparation in foreign language, be prepared to begin taking a language as soon as you arrive at UCSB in order to have a chance of completing the full 3-year requirement.
- If you are a California community college student, you can use assist.org as a resource to check for transferrable preparation courses (including pre-major courses) for Global Studies:
 - Select your community college and UCSB
 - You can then choose Global Studies to see how the different major requirements line up with transferable courses at your community college.
 - You can also re-run the search using a specific *department* if you need to check specifics on courses from a specific department (this is most useful for checking on what **foreign language courses** count for what UCSB levels, etc., since language classes don't show up on the Global Studies *major* agreement on assist.) GE (General Education) course requirements and transferrable courses for those can also be found on assist.org.
 - **If you are coming from a non-CA community college or a different institution**, you could still do this basic search on Assist.org with a random California community college to see examples of *types* of classes and see if you've taken something similar (ie, not just "a Sociology class" but specifically "Introduction to Sociology" or a History course that lines up with similar date ranges), then contact us for specifics.

4) I want to study abroad! How and when should I start thinking about and planning for that?

- You picked the right major - Global Studies is among the majors that sends the most students abroad in the entire UC system!
- Start browsing the [UCEAP](https://uceap.ucsb.edu) website for programs and locations that interest you
- When is it time to get serious about applying? Count about 8-9 months backwards from when you want to be studying abroad and plan to be turning in your application around then.
 - All programs have different, specific deadlines, but generally Jan-March is when you'll turn in an application for a summer, fall, or full-year program departing later that same year. For spring quarter/semester programs, you'll be turning yours in around March-May of the year before you intend to be abroad.
 - New junior transfers, that means you have to be ready to move pretty quickly after starting at UCSB if you want to study abroad during, say, the fall of your senior year!

- Start early - the application has lots of parts, including an Academic Planning Form process that asks you to meet with your major advisor(s) to check your potential course selections.

5) What can I expect during the orientation sessions during the summer?

Jr. Transfer students:

- [Our YouTube advising channel](#) has a lot of good resources for you to explore related to the major requirements, the foreign language requirement, and how to start thinking ahead for studying abroad on UCEAP. You can also view our most recent transfer workshop video to get a sense of what that year's junior transfers were told; just be aware that things might change by the time you're arriving in terms of major requirements, contact info, etc.
- At some point during the day, you'll get a chance to come to a short presentation about getting started with Global Studies.
 - We'll talk about registration tips and clarify any questions you might have about the major requirements.
- Since your new student profile likely won't be set up by the time we meet, bring copies of unofficial transcripts from your previous college(s) so we can see what prep for the major/pre-major courses you might have already fulfilled. If we have time after the group presentation, we can have quick one-on-one meetings to clarify any specific questions you might have, and we typically offer 1-on-1 advising sessions in the days leading up to your first registration pass in mid to late August so we can go through specifics with you.

Freshman students:

- Your orientation will be more focused on general registration and getting settled. We can meet sometime during your first year or so - no big rush for now!
- [Our YouTube advising channel](#) has a lot of good resources for you to explore related to the major requirements (including the Pre-Major to full major application process), the foreign language requirement, and how to start thinking ahead for studying abroad on UCEAP.
- Before then or as you get started at UCSB, feel free to contact the undergraduate advisor by email or make an appointment to chat (see all contact information above). Just be advised that we suspend all regular appointments during the first two weeks of each quarter to handle immediate registration questions (and periodically at other times of the year, such as during transfer registration season). We definitely want to meet with you, we just ask for your patience during those very busy first-part-of-the-new-quarter weeks!